

HOUSE RESOLUTION 258

By Roach

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Mr. Sidney B. Bishop for meritorious service to the citizens of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Sidney B. Bishop; and

WHEREAS, the only child of Sam and Edna Bishop, Sidney Bishop was raised on a 125-acre farm two miles south of Milledgeville in McNairy County; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bishop graduated from Adamsville High School in 1940 and earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville in 1943 before joining the United States Army; he was assigned to the Eighth Armored Division of the Third Army; and

WHEREAS, during the Ardennes Offensive in the Battle of the Bulge in January 1945, then-Corporal Bishop's tank was hit by enemy fire, and he and three other members of the crew received the Purple Heart medal;

WHEREAS, then-Corporal Bishop demonstrated further gallantry in action on February 28, 1945, during the Rhineland campaign when his tank was struck and ignited by enemy fire; Corporal Bishop dismounted and voluntarily sought out another tank and took the place of a gunner who had been wounded earlier; he served with this crew for an hour before this second tank was disabled by rocket fire; Corporal Bishop dismounted once again under intense artillery and mortar fire and took his place in a third tank; for his actions, Corporal Bishop was awarded the Silver Star; only 149 Silver Stars were awarded to members of the 12,000-strong Eighth Armored Division; and

WHEREAS, then-Corporal Bishop also received a Bronze Star during the Central Europe campaign at the war's end; and

WHEREAS, he began teaching Vocational Agriculture at LaFollette High School in January 1946 and was discharged from the service that December; and

WHEREAS, in August 1946, Mr. Bishop began a more than twelve-year tenure at Rutledge High School, where he taught Vocational Agriculture and served in many capacities, including as president of Grainger County Teachers Association, president of Tennessee Vocational Agricultural Teachers, vice-president of Southeastern National Vocational Agricultural Teachers Association, president of the Grainger County Fair Association, and senior class sponsor; and

WHEREAS, also while Mr. Bishop was at Rutledge High School, the Agriculture Department was selected by the University of Tennessee to train future agriculture teachers, and the 1954-1955 Future Farmers of America officers of the Rutledge Chapter won first place in the parliamentary procedure state contest and became the first Rutledge High School organization to win first prize in a state competition; and

WHEREAS, in 1958, Sidney Bishop joined Tennessee Farmers Insurance Companies representing Grainger and Jefferson counties and served as agency manager until 1998; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to accolades, Mr. Bishop was elected president of the Knoxville Association of Life Underwriters and received the Man of the Year award during his tenure as president; and

WHEREAS, in 1991, Mr. Bishop served as president of the Eighth Armored Division Reunion Association and as its executive director from 1994 until the Association was discontinued in 2009; and

WHEREAS, a devout man of faith, Mr. Bishop has been a member of the Rutledge Baptist Church in Rutledge and the First Baptist Church in Jefferson City; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bishop shared love and companionship with his wife, Geneva, until her death in 2005; the couple's blessed union produced two sons, Larry Bishop and David Bishop; five grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Sidney Bishop for his dedication to the State of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and commend Mr. Sidney B. Bishop for meritorious service to the citizens of Tennessee and extend to him our best wishes for much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.